The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" As the answer to question (*d*) indicates that the matter is under disposal by the district officers, it would be well that the hon. Member puts a question later on when I shall be able to call for a report and give him the information."

Public Works.

Damage to Cauvery bridges at Sivasamudram due to floods.

*22 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one of the two Cauvery bridges at Sivasamudram in Coimbatore district was washed away at the time of floods last year and much inconvenience is being thereby caused to the public ;

(*b*) whether any attempt has been made to induce the Jaghirdar of Sivasamudram to repair the bridge and if so, with what result ;

(*c*) whether there has been any correspondence with the Mysore Government on the matter and if so, the result of that correspondence ;

(*d*) whether the Government have asked the Collector of Coimbatore and the Executive Engineer of Salem to report as to the place most suited for putting up a new bridge and if so, whether the report has been received and to what effect ;

(*e*) whether the Government are taking steps to repair the old bridge or to put up a new bridge and if so, when it is likely to have through communication ; and

(*f*) whether the bed of the river at and near Sivasamudram belongs to this Government or the Mysore Government or to both ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The questions are under correspondence.

(*d*) A proposal has been made to construct a single bridge higher up the river than the two old bridges ; the question is under consideration.

(*e*) It has not yet been decided what is the best means of providing for traffic pending the construction of a new bridge.

(*f*) The boundary between Mysore and Madras at the island of Sivasamudram is the midstream of the Cauvery on the Mysore side of the island.

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" With reference to answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*), may I know if the question of constructing a bridge is going to be taken up soon and if the correspondence with the Jaghirdar and the Mysore Government is finished ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" I should think it depends on the state of the finances."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Has it been settled whether the Jaghirdar has to pay a portion or whether he is not bound to maintain the bridge ? "

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar :—" We are not concerned with the correspondence but we are concerned with what is going to become of the repair itself. I should like to know in what stage the matter is."

18th August 1925]

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" It will be constructed as soon as finances are made available."

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar :—" I wish to know if finances will be made available at all. The difficulty is that it is the main line of communication and we are anxious to know whether the financial position has been settled."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I am afraid I cannot anticipate the state of the finances some time hence or the decision of the Council on a matter which is in its hands."

Rao Bahadur T. A Ramalinga Chettiyar :—" At least some temporary repair could be made."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I would address the Minister for Local Self-Government to tell us if he could give some money for this. After all, some department must give money."

The hon. the Raja of Panagal :—" Mr. President, may I point out that it is a matter for the Public Works Department ? "

Mr C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" We do not know which department is at all responsible for this matter."

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :—" Is there any temporary arrangement made pending the final repairs to be effected ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" There is now a ferry. I also see that there is an estimate for temporary repairs."

Revenue Establishments.

The post of additional Assistant Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

*23 Q.—Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any post of an additional Assistant Secretary in the Board of Revenue ;

(*b*) if so, the year when the post was created ; the name of the present incumbent ; the number of years he has been actually there ; the special reasons for the continuance of this gentleman in the Board of Revenue ;

(*c*) whether there is any rule that Assistant Secretaries in the Board's office should not continue as such for more than three years ; and

(*d*) whether this post carries any special pay or allowance ; if so, how much ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The appointment was sanctioned temporarily in February 1922 and was made permanent in November 1923. The term of office is ordinarily limited to three years.

M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib K. E. Chidambara Ayyar Avargal, who is the present incumbent, has been holding the post since February 1922. The Government have sanctioned his retention in the post till about October 1925 in the public interests.

(*d*) Yes ; a special pay of Rs 200 per mensem.